BAKEMONOGATARI

18

OH!GREAT

Original Story:

NISIOISIN

Original Character Design: VOFAN

化物語十八

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

18

ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Mayoi Hachikuji

A ghost girl, who once got lost because of a snail before being saved by Koyomi.

Koyomi Araragi

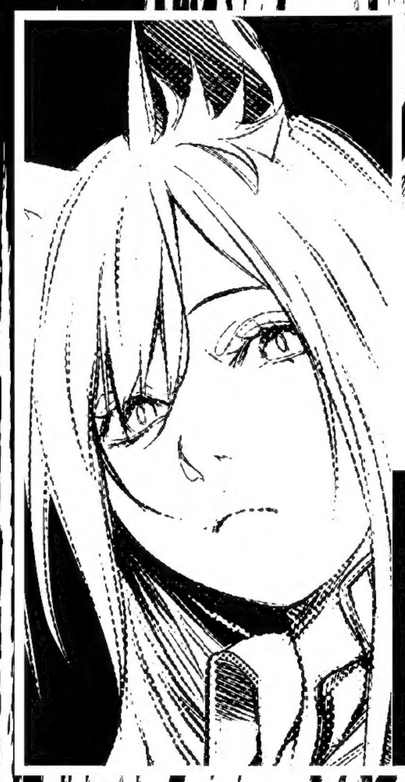
A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He feels he owes a debt to Hanekawa, who is being tormented by an aberration, and so he is now busy trying to save her.

Suruga Kanbaru

Koyomi's junior, who once made a wish to a monkey before being saved by him.

Nadeko Sengoku

Koyomi's little sister's friend, who was once constricted by a snake before being saved by him.

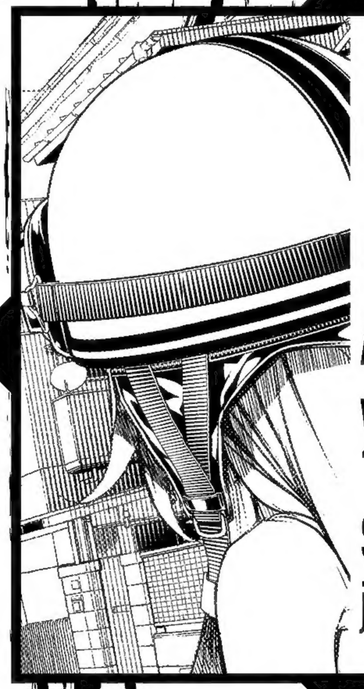


Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She has feelings for Koyomi and has been bewitched by a cat.

Black Hanekawa

The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa.



Shinobu Oshino

A husk of a vampire, who was once called the "king of aberrations." She has set off on a journey of self-discovery.

Hitagi Senjogahara

Koyomi's lover, who once encountered a crab before being saved by him.

SHINO-
BUUU
!!!

THE STORY SO FAR

The aberration known as the Afflicting Cat has reappeared, even though the issue was thought to have been settled during Golden Week. And things only get worse when Shinobu, who could have helped in the fight against this cat, suddenly leaves home and vanishes without a trace. Koyomi now runs wildly through the streets at night to save Hanekawa from the aberration that torments her and to find Shinobu, who cannot live apart from Koyomi. Today is also June 13, the day Koyomi promised to go on a date with Senjogahara. It should be a day to remember—one where his personal hell would come to an end... or at least, that was the plan.

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU OR ANYTHING.

BUT ...

...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T COME BACK, OKAY?

Chapter 5 Tsubasa Cat

BOOK DESIGN VEIA

RAKEMONOGATARI

Er...

Well.

Now that I think about it, it's pretty late...

I guess... that... well...

I know you get words wrong a lot, but you're crossing a line right now.

Please do stay strong.

Mister Araragi, you can't allow yourself to get too minused.

WHOOOSH

BLURBLE

BLURBLE

IF ANYTHING, THIS IS WHEN I REALLY GET GOING. I'M BRIMMING WITH ENERGY AT THIS HOUR.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A GHOST, YOU KNOW.

I...WILL...GET...MY...REVENGE...

...

...

Oh.

SKREEK

Got it! You're really helping me out here. Don't push yourself too hard, though.

YESSIR. ORDERS RECEIVED!

Let me know if you find Shinobu, then!

...that maybe it takes a conscious effort to stay out of love, remember?

In the evening, you told me...

Oh, that's right, Hachikuji... There's something I forgot to tell you.

Yes.

...

When she said that,

she must have been talking about Hanekawa.

I love them all so very much, but...

I love Hanekawa, but...

...was falling even more in love with somebody else— it's as simple as that.

All it took for me...

I don't think you do.

It was like I'd gone and even made you worried about me in some kind of strange way.

Well, you know— I did feel kind of bad.

Er...

I see.

I under-stand.

But that...

...some-thing like— my first love.

...I might have experi-enced ...

It's true.

Over spring break...

Naoetsu Fine Racehorses
Araragi Memorial
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

A fair and open battle! I like it!

So you're saying it's like a horsey race?

WHAP

Hm?

...

THD THD THD
ドドドドド

And they're off here in the Araragi Fine Racehorse Memorial Cup, each of the steeds making a fine start. No, perhaps not, a few were a bit slow to start, and Featherriver is in the lead. She's got a good reputation for her solid performance, and she jumped to the start. Will this be a runaway victory? She uses her large-breasted momentum to easily clear the first corner, but no, here she comes, here she comes! It's Warfield with those legs! Here she comes with those amazing legs, folks! Warfield makes a move on the inside—a decisive move—but will Warfield take the lead? Warfield! It's Warfield coming up! She's snatched up the lead in this race with her surging attack! What power! What strength! But Featherriver closes the gap. Can she take Warfield down? Behind them, we see Howmuch, and the race is only getting started, folks— there's plenty left to go!

HUH ?!

Everyone?!

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

So everyone still has a chance.

The one you love the most in the end will earn the win.

Right ?

NEE-HEE!

I'M ALL FOR THIS METHOD.

I THINK THAT'S WON-DERFUL.

GRIP

SHIIINE

Why is Hachikuji this happy...?

Mmmgh...

...I... I see...

I don't really understand, but thanks...

I love you, Mister Araragi.

...I was fortunate to have met you, Mister Araragi.

While it was unfortunate that I became a ghost...

SWOOSH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
BE SAFE!
OH!
OKAAAY!
Thanks. Me too, Hachikuji.
Anyway, let me know.
...

Mmh, mmmgh... I got drawn into running my mouth because of the conversation, but... yeah, of course this would happen...

...missed my mark...

I... I completely...

SLUUUMP

ドーン

Come on over!

...must not know.

Mister Araragi...

I don't need to be a lost aberration anymore. I don't have a reason to be.

It's... about time, huh.

I ended up finding my home.

I guess it might be about time to move on to the other side...

I still can't move on, can I?

...if this is how it is,

That's what I was thinking.

But now...

PWING

Yeah.

OKAY, TIME TO GET SEARCH-ING!

THP THP THP THP THP

JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

I'LL DO MY BEST WHILE I CAN STILL BE HERE.

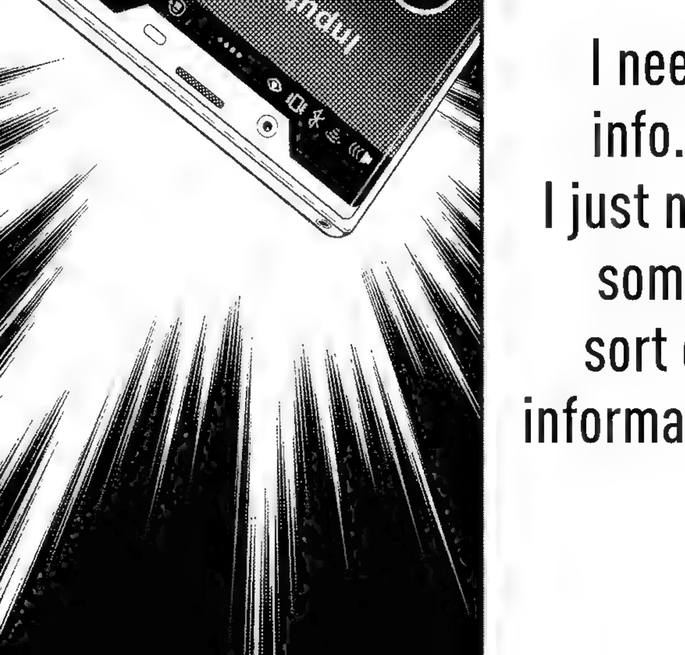
...

I was able to come across Hachikuji.

So I should be able to come across Shinobu, too—or so I'd like to believe, but...

...I'm unlikely to if I just run around town with reckless abandon like this.

I need info... I just need some sort of information!



Yeah ...

Sorry to call you right after getting your number.

Big Brother Koyomi ?!

Huh?

FLOP FLOP ぱた ぱた

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO RIGHT NOW!

NO, NOT AT ALL! I'M SO HAPPY! THANK YOU!

Where should I start...

Well. Umm...

Hm ...?

So she can be energetic like this as long as she's on the phone, where you don't have to be face-to-face with someone...?

What's the matter, Big Brother?! What happened?!

You almost sound out of breath!

Ca—

Calm down, Big Brother!

It's important to stay calm at times like this, you know!

Uhh... Let's see.

Oh, I know!

...

Sengoku really just told me that...

...

How much confidence does it take to tell someone that the story you're about to tell is "really funny"?

...I can't believe she said that.

Ummm, so in manga and anime...

I'll tell you a really funny story, then.

...while maids might be shown as living fun and carefree lives, being a maid in real life is a surprisingly difficult job, you see.

It's not all about being cute and saying "moé moé!" From what I understand, they barely have any time to themselves.

I'm sure of it, because that's what a maid told me...

...at a mixer the other day...

That's right.

Isn't it funny?

So, umm ...

Is it supposed to be funny because the maid says she barely has any time to herself while she's meeting guys at a fun and carefree mixer...?

Have you— noticed some-thing?

Anything will help at this point.

Note: Not a vampire power.

... It would have been a pretty trying experience for anyone without my powers to remotely view a scene based only on the sound given off by the rustling of cloth...

Hmmm...

Oh!

Shi-nobu ...?

She disap-peared? The blond girl, right?

I can use binoculars to look for her.

I live on the 18th floor, you know!

Oh, that's right!

No! Let me help out!

Are you sure? Sorry...

What is it ?!

Did you find her?!

Oh.

...Strange?

...someone said something strange to me.

...I-I'm sorry. That's not it... Um, there's something I kind of remembered.

It might not have anything to do with this, but...

Yes.

A man named Mister Deishu Kaiki—

BAKEMONOGATARI

Do you want some, Sengoku?

THANK YOU, MISTER KAIKI!

Y... YES!

OH!

Huh ...?

Fine with me. Then pay up.

I love money.

Sen-goku.

you can buy happiness, and you can buy dreams—

You can buy things, you can buy life, you can buy people, you can buy hearts and minds,

It can be a substitute for anything under the sun—it's a trump card.

Because money can stand in for anything.

That's why I love it.

It's not irreplaceable.

It's very precious—but not only that.

I...don't think I'd like this guy very much...

...

Oh... so is this the jerk... er, the person...

...who agreed to talk to you about the bruises on your body?

Bruises— from being constricted by a snake.

To briefly summarize Sengoku's complete tangent—

this man was apparently an expert on aberrations, the same as Oshino.

He'd quietly become a celebrity at Sengoku's middle school and apparently gives all kinds of advice.

For a fee.

He ended up not letting Nadeko have a single bite of meat...

O-Oh... Is that so. I'd be happy to hear all about it later...

So anyway, he said something strange, right? Well— what was it?

But he said it had nothing to do with our main topic.

You know, Big Brother, I gave Mister Kaiki almost all the money I got as a New Year's gift.

Sen-goku.

The "curse" placed upon you is quite an irregular one.

You don't have any time to spare right now, and I was basically complaining to you. I'm sorry, how inconsiderate.

Oh... I... I'm sorry, Big Brother.

No...it's fine... just, what's this all about?

...has been opened.

...a hole...

There are so many unique conditions that would normally never be met— and so, by chance...

There, you can find a shrine that has fallen out of use.

There is a mountain on the outskirts of this town.

"A hole." ...

That is the center ...

...of this town's aberrations.

Right now,

there are *bad things*— gathering there.

Yes— that's right. A vampire. The kind you see in films and comics.

But a vampire once lived in that shrine.

It makes no difference to me whether or not you believe me.

No, it doesn't matter after all. Don't believe anything I say.

Shinobu's a— vampire too, right...?

Shi...

...

Thanks, Sengoku ...

Let me know if you find her, okay?

BEEP

For whatever reason... it makes me *stop and think.*

There's some-thing... unsettling about it.

This topic coming up— the timing of it...

But— what is this feeling?

What Sengoku told me—

wasn't new to me in any way.

That is where they revered me as a god.

'Twas the summit of yonder mountain.

No, actually ...

Why hadn't I noticed until now?

...home.

It's Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade's...

Kita Shirahebi Shrine is Shinobu's—

No...

Thanks, Sengoku!

That's right—she *returned to her home*.

That seems more than likely, doesn't it?!

TWITCH

Ah!

Heh heh heh...
Found—ya?

Hm? No?
Hmm...

Isn't that
Big Brother
Koyomi?

Sen-
goku.

What is it
you want to
protect so
badly that
you're willing
to pay a man
like me?

Surely this
must be
something
irreplaceable
for you.

Your friendship with the classmate who cursed you?

Your peaceful life?

Your body?

Hmph.

...Um...

Huh...? Well...

Ah...

Right now...

I wasn't able to give an answer then.

But now— I can say it.

What's "irreplaceable" to me.

...Big Brother Koyomi... is all I can see.

Suruga Kanbaru
080-XXX-XXXX
Now connecting
Keypad
Mute
Speaker
Contacts
End Call
PRRRING
PRRRING

What I need— is insurance.

but it's really going to hurt if I come out of this empty-handed.

There's a pretty high chance Shinobu's on that mountain now—

THE TRUTH
m&m
About MAKOTO

Suruga Kanbaru here.

My senior Araragi's perverted slave by profession.

THE TRUTH

Hm.

That voice... it must be you, my senior Araragi.

WE'RE NOT LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE I CAN JUST LET A JOKE LIKE THAT SLIDE ANYMORE!

I'M ABSOLUTELY GOING TO CALL YOU A RECKLESS LIAR OVER THAT!

If you found it too extreme, I shudder to imagine what the original could be!

You should know the title I used was fairly self-censored compared to the original.

Did the perverted slave part displease you?

Did you really say that without even knowing you were talking to me?!

...Yeah, it wasn't my day to help with prep for the cultural festival.

Hm? No, I've already left school.

M&M
THE TRUTH
About MAKOTO

Is something the matter? It's not like you to guess wrong twice in a row.

No, not that either.

...

So what're you up to right now? Are you at home?

I see... I'm jealous. Your class sounds pretty organized.

Right now, I'm amusing myself by playing *Fashionable Witches: Love and Berry* in the neighborhood supermarket's game room.

How was I supposed to predict that?!

What are you talking about?

Great games can be enjoyed by people of any age.

THP

THP

Is that actually fun for high schoolers to play?

And wait...

If someone really gets angry at you, the only thing to do is get just as angry back at them.

No! You really need to apologize!

You got kicked out?!

Hmph. I can't believe you, my senior, of all people, are saying the same thing as the clerk who just kicked me out of the store.

I've already spent nearly 3,000 yen today alone.

There's a small line of kids behind me, but I have no intention of giving up my seat.

You're acting like you can do whatever terrible thing you want just because you have some money!

What are you doing?! Stop now and let those kids play!

I absolutely wasn't doing anything indecent just now.

I'm working hard to always keep my body and heart open and honest.

I should let you know for the sake of my honor.

What was that?

...

Nothing, just talking to myself.

But you know, even though I go for most any boys' love genre, there are a few I still can't handle...

I can't stay open and honest when it comes to some of those novels.

Again, what are you even talking about?!

Why don't you tell me why you called?

All right then, my senior Araragi.

Oh... Right.

I was on the verge of forgetting why I'd called you myself.

Lend it to you? Don't be silly.

Kan-baru.

I want you to lend me your strength.

All you have to do is tell me how to use it.

My strength has always belonged to you. It's been that way right from the start.

That was so cool... I might fall for her...

...

BAKEMONOGATARI

So you're saying...

...I need to strip!!!

HAAAAH

カバルおおお!!

Of course! I fully compre-hend you now!

So please, Kanbaru, hold off on that for now and just find Shinobu like a normal person would find someone!

Okay?! Haha! You're going to be blown away if you ever see me strip!

WATCH FOR FALLING METEORS

If you're that desperate to, we can both take off all the clothes we want next time!

I need you to lend me those faster-than-a bike legs of yours!

I'm headed towards the moun-tains right now.

While I'm there, I'd like you to search the town!

Lend them to you? Don't be silly.

...my thighs, my shins, and my groin have all belonged to you from the start.

My calves, my knee pits...

Hm? What's that? The soles of my feet and the webbing between my fin-gers?

Now there's the man I've come to know...

So kinky that you fear no gods...

I never said that!

Oh...right. She gave me your volleyball shorts and school swimsuit to hold onto.

Sengoku is helping out, too, so fill each other in. I just sent you her number.

Uh. I think they are.

They're not washed, are they?

I see.

Kanbaru... it seems like we're going to have to sit down and have a nice, long talk about how exactly you view me.

SCREEK

Blows may also be exchanged.

VSSSHH

So it's true, even the pervi-est can fall!

It's so unlike you to allow such a travesty to occur!

Ex-cuse me ?!

What a fool... Getting them back from her is mean-ingless now!

Sounds good!

We'll go all-out on each other in the nude— what an erotic turn of phrase!

FLAKK

BOOM

It's odd, but for whatever reason—my senior Araragi and I...

...sync up perfectly.

It's like we've been best friends forever.

Everyone treats me like the most outgoing student at Naoetsu High...

...but in its own way—that can get pretty stifling and tiring at times.

After all, the real me is a BL-loving girl...

...whose roots are as rotten as they get.

Thanks, Kanbaru.

You're really helping me out here!

Not that it'd mean much from someone who just had this much fun making dirty jokes with you.

THAT ALREADY MAKES YOU UNIQUE!

DON'T DRAG ME INTO GOD-KNOWS-HOW-MUCH LEGAL TROUBLE BY BRINGING MY NAME INTO SOMETHING THAT INDECENT!

The words "women-only train car" get me terribly excited, but that's where it stops.

You're overes-timating me. I'm not that much of a pervert.

Oh, really? I'm happy to hear that.

So, at the end of the day, I guess you do acknowledge me as your perverted slave.

Haha. You're the only one I say these kinds of things to.

Speaking of indecent acts.

I heard, you know.

It seems that you're going to engage in some indecent acts with my senior Senjogahara after all this today?

WHAT ABOUT A DATE IS INDECENT ?!

AND WAIT, WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

She called me over at the end of lunch.

I ended up spending all of fifth and sixth period hearing her brag about it in the basketball team's clubroom.

In any case—just promise me you won't put your hands on Shinobu if you find her.

Just contact me first! Okay?!

What an annoying senior!

I guess the fact that she would brag about it shows that Senjogahara's looking forward to today's date just as much as I am.

So that's why she wasn't in her afternoon classes...

I *am* happy to hear that.

Brag-ging, huh...

Still...it sounds like—she was bragging.

Okay.

I act only accord-ing to your com-mand, my senior.

Beep.

—Okay.

...

KRINK

GRRKT

BWOOM

Yep—just as I expected.

When I'm on this mountain—I can transform...!

You mean the other day—when I started feeling sick on the mountain?

That?

Hm? ...Oh.

This feeling— I know what it is.

It's just like what Kanbaru told me...

GRRRCH

KRAK

I guess I feel...a little tired...

If anything, it might've been the opposite of that.

...

No...

I wouldn't call it feeling sick—

Are you telling me you've experienced something like that?! In this world?! You didn't even have to be reborn in another one for that?!

...the only way I could describe it is like a tentacle-play scene.

—Yes, if I were to compare it to a past experience of mine...

It felt like a countless number of some creature was clinging to me.

It felt like— it was trying to force some kind of unbelievable power into me.

...was putting out *bad things*— and they were diving into my body from its every hole—

This unknown *some-thing*...

Nobody asked!

SQUEEEZE キュラララ…

JIGGLE JIGGLE JIGGLE

AS FAR AS ANYTHING BELOW THE BELT GOES, I USED ALL MY POWER TO PUT UP AN IRON DEFENSE!

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY!

THWAK

SPLAT

ROLL ROLL ROLL ゴロゴロ ゴロ ゴロ

BA-KRAK BA-KRAK BA-KRAK バキバキバキ

GRONK ゴゴゴ

FSSSSHHH

My healing abilities... are enhanced, too.

Ow... that— doesn't hurt.

That shrine is the center of it all.

There are too many bad things accumulating here.

She'd already lost that power during spring break.

Kiss-Shot—Shinobu—isn't a "king" anymore.

But—isn't that odd?

That two kings of aberrations—were causing them to gather these bad things.

That—is what Mèmè Oshino told me.

if this doesn't involve Shinobu ...

But if—

This is just a thought...

...is some-one else opening up this hole...

...for Shi-nobu's sake...?

If someone's set things up so this place would act this way...

But if she can become a king of aberrations again with an influx of these *bad things*...

Shinobu's lost her power.

...

Well ...

No, I'm over-thinking this... Or am I?

Did you place that amulet there, Araragi?

TWITCH

?!!

...?!

Who the hell are you?

That's right— I did.

But why do you know my name?

You want to know? Fine, then.

Pay up.

"If you want to know my name, then pay up," he said.

BAKEMONOGATARI

Ka... Kai-ki...

I wanted to say... his name is...

...who would make that preposterous a demand.

I find it hard to believe there would be more than one man in all humanity...

Umm...

This is the guy Sengoku was talking about...

Oh... Now I get it.

Deishu
Kaiki.

Oh!

Hmph.

She has blond hair, and she's wearing a one-piece dress...with goggles and a helmet...

I'm looking for a little girl. Have you seen her?

Uh... Um...

Yes, I've seen her.

He's kinda rude and all-around creepy...

I get a weird feeling from this guy...

R-REALLY?! WHERE WAS SHE?! DID YOU SEE HER ON THIS MOUNTAIN?!

PLEASE... TELL ME MORE!

Huh?!!

Why ask this guy, though? It's not like he'll know...

...

...!!

You want to know? Fine, then.

How much can you pay?

Now it's your turn to give me some information.

I told you— that I was the one to put that amulet on the shrine.

Didn't I... just give you some information you were asking about?

...

She was plodding around this mountain, barefoot and alone...

Just... a little while ago.

...

AAAHHH...

I was shocked—
but how could I not
be when a horde of
zombies appeared
out of nowhere and
attacked her?

They must have come here for revenge after being revived by this mountain's spiritual power.

Probably those who've been eaten by her in the past...

SHIIIINE

FLASH

The battle lasted for hours, but just as the young girl was about to be victorious—

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
She still seemed confident, though.
She was ready and willing to fight back.
ゴロゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
They called forth a pretty dangerous and powerful helper.
Perhaps those damned zombies thought she was too much for them.

But she tragically passed as a result of her opponent's finishing move— and I imagine she's on a journey to reach Nirvana right about now.

Asura Special Attack! MAHASTHAMAPRAPTA!

GWOOOSH

AAAGH

ZSSHH

THWAP

I'll give you as much as you want. Just tell me the truth!

I don't have time for this.

5000

NIPPO

...Hm?
Oh, you have a train pass.
In that case, I'll be taking your change and your coupons, too.

13,000 yen, huh... Well, fine. I'll leave you a little for the train fare home.

I like your attitude.

...is that there's nothing more worthless than that which you believe to have given in charity.

The lesson you need to learn here...

Ara-ragi.

This idea that you gave something to me, and so I must give you something in return—

such overblown concepts of a give-and-take relationship or honor— are of no interest to me.

TOSS

I'm a man who wants nothing but money.

Araragi... you know a woman named Hanekawa, right?

?!

Oh, that's right.

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

I've seen that woman.

Right here— in the past.

What an accursed woman.

All kinds of *bad things* have gathered to her, trying to use her.

Since it's clear you saw her, all I want to know is when and where.

You just said she was walking around— barefoot.

I want to know where this blond girl is.

That's not what I asked.

SMIRK

Hanekawa knows where she is.

Like a crow.

...Kaiki laughed.

...

SHUDDER

The so-called "charm" that the middle schoolers around here know. You taught it to them, didn't you?

That— curse.

...

One more thing...

It wasn't me.

What are you plotting— teaching something that dangerous to kids?

The one who used kids to open the hole there— was another expert.

It's easy to do business in the *occult* in such places, you see.

I only came here because I heard a ridiculous story about a vampire who could be called the king of aberrations appearing in this town.

All I found— were *three former kings* and *one future king.*

SMIRK

I was let down, of course...

There are no kings here.

You can spend all the time you want on this mountain, but it would all be wasted...

You should go back to town.

Ara-ragi...

…

PRRRIP

…

Eh, that's fine. It should do at least some work scattering the *bad things*...

So you placed the amulet on the door of the main shrine?

Kiss-Shot at the height of her powers would be one thing—but it'd be impossible for present-day Shinobu to come through here without leaving a single footprint in all this piled-up dust.

There were no traces of anyone entering the main shrine for decades.

I even turned into a bat and did a quick search of the sky above.

But the mountain was too vast. It felt like Kaiki was right and that I was just frittering away time.

So I ended up coming back to town completely empty-handed.

Hanekawa knows.

I guess my only option— is to believe what he said...

In that case...

Whether the mountains or the town,

would it even be possible to find a little girl who ran away of her own volition?

But—now that I think about it...

...she would only have to hide behind a bit of greenery or a wall like this one and I wouldn't be able to find her. So—

Even if she was right next to me...

BLOOD

KRASH

LOOK-ING FUR ME?

MROW♡

Cat ...?!!

MROW.

BAKEMONOGATARI

Cut Here

Cut Here

Cut Here

Cut Here

化け *bake*

語 *gatari*

Hey there, human.

MREH

SKREEE

KEEK

Ah!

...Whoa!

Dah!

Ah!

Wh...!

Why?!

BLUP

The Afflicting Cat—

"Black Hanekawa."

Why are you here...?!

And wait!

You—

Why are you—dressed like...

But my back was so confident before. It firmly claimed that she wasn't wearing anything under those pajamas...

Did she go out of her way to change before this?!

Are you telling me that all this time, she's been wearing sexy lingerie like this under her pajamas...?!

You...

No, wait. More impor-tantly...

Heh. Stop giving me that dubious look, human.

It's not like I'm here to do anything nyawty.

Nyot sure what happened exactly, but after pawing around for a little while, that seal just undid itself a minute ago— and after that, I just followed your scent here.

MYA HA HA HA

The seal— came undone ?!

Just on its own?!

Whether it comes to her, or Shinobu leaving home.

This...*isn't like you.*

Oshino —

You're proving to be incredibly useless this time around.

Mrow?

BLOOP

THIP

By the way, cat...

...

Repeat the next sentence I say.

Cat.

monstrous to the third lead degree!

mentally manifesting many motorcycles

Now, the manic maniac mused,

MEOW.
THE MYANIC
MYANIYAC
MEWED.

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
AFFLICTING

MEOWNTALLY MYAMI-FESTING MEOWNY MEOWTOR-CYCLES MEOWN-STROUS...

BLUP

BLUP

BLUP

...TO THE FURRED PEDIGREE!

DAMN!

CUTE!

This is heaven.

So this is it.

SO!

BRRRRIP

BRRRRIP

Though overcome with the sudden desire to throw everything out the window and spend all night jumping rope with her...

...I contented myself with a healthy dose of cat talk.

A brilliant call if I do say so myself.

BUT WAIT, WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING ANYTHING UNDERNEATH ?!

Mrow?

DOWN THERE! BELOW!

FLIP

What are you paws-sibly talking about ?!

I'm fine being in the nyude, but for sanitary reasons, my myaster's body needs to...

...

TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL

THP

AND WHY'D IT TAKE YOU SO LONG TO REALIZE ?!

NOW THAT'S UNMEOW-TURAL! AS FISHY AS IT GETS!

I DON'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU CALLING ME SUSPICIOUS! NOT AFTER YOU CAME FLYING DOWN WITH NO UNDER-WEAR ON!

1 YEN PACHINKO New machine debut

W...WELL, I THINK IT'S FINE! I'M A CAT, AFTER ALL! IT'S NYORMAL FOR ME TO BE NYUDE!

MYAHA-HAHAHA!

...MEOW!

FLIP

FWOOSH

FLUTTER FLUTTER FLUTTER

I guess Oshino and I are really the only ones who recognize her as Hanekawa, anyway.

Wait, no. This is no time for me to start an erotic comedy routine with her...

S-So I guess I should just continue, and...

And you know...

What's she even here for anyway ...?

Oh, shut your meowth.

NO! THIS IS *NOT* OKAY!

EVEN IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT, I'M NOT!

THWAP

FWP FWP FWP

Ladies Underwear
¥680
(incl. tax ¥734.4)
K405632
Cozy Lifestyle
COTTON LADIES SHORTS
コットンショーツ

She said she's not here to do anything naughty, but...

Excuse me...? Uhh... Does anyone work here?

Umm...

Umm... I'm in a hurry...so I'll just leave my money here.

You say the strangest things.

Mew can just look away.

UH— HOLD UP, WAIT!

I TOLD YOU TO HIDE!

PUT THOSE ON SOMEWHERE OUT OF SIGHT!

SNAP

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!

Do you really think I'm able to make the impossible possible?!

Cats may not be very intelligent— but you're not one to talk.

No myatter how I'm dressed—

we're still the only ones here.

...this seemed familiar.

That must be why...

...I was in contact with powerful spiritual energy.

When I was in the mountains...

...

...

My spring break from hell...

...was just like this.

To us monsters— humans might as well not exist.

Because nobody— notices us then.

Isn't it easier to search— when it's *like this*?

The two of us, alone—right?

Araragi.

Night...

...is a time for monsters— you nyoh.

I've got a good nyohse.

...who never knows what it means to be stained.

I can't be a girl...

I'll help mew.

KANBARU BANK

KANBARU BANK

...to settle this.

It's time...

...to know filth.

I want...

Karaoke Mac

KANBARU BANK

Well, I guess I don't have to worry about upholding Hanekawa's honor, then.

...I see.

Time to fight!

ゴゥ…
WOOSH

Let's do this!

...

That's too filthy, Araragi...

In that case, take off those panties!

BAKEMONOGATARI

2

We love without reason, and without reason we hate.

Though the tale of Tsubasa Hanekawa is my tale,

it is not one that I can tell.

FLTTR

FLTTR

I believe there was once a great author who said he found it hard to believe that he was himself down to the tips of his outstretched toes—

That's because I can't even define the extent to which I am me.

Hey, Hanekawa. Don't walk in front of me looking like that.

But I don't even need to extend my legs.

I'm not even sure if the mind in my head is my own.

What's the myatter? Do you even get turned on by convenience-store underwear you bought yourself?

WELL, HOW DO I PUT THIS... IT MAKES PANTIES FEEL LESS VALUABLE TO ME...

To begin with, the name Tsubasa Hanekawa is already unstable.

Then ...

THP

Is there a me other than me— that's still me?

Am I— me?

Okay ...

BOOM

PAK

WOOSH

My family name has changed a number of times.

The reason I haven't been facing myself all this time...

Which is why I've started to think that names ... ...are nothing more than signifiers.

...could be due to the fact that I never recognized my name as my own—that I never recognized it as an indicator of my self.

I can only transform on that mountain.

Let me know if you find some-thing.

HURRY IT UP, VAMPIRE.

IT'S FASTER TO SEARCH FROM ABOVE!

Don't be ridicu-lous.

Insurance Accepted

KOBAYASHI

Of course ...

...I imagine Araragi doesn't worry himself to a standstill with these kinds of ideas.

And that makes me—

embar-rassed for myself.

I still feel like thanking ya.

During Golden Week—well, your meowthods mighta been a little rough.

But you were able to settle *things* in just nine days.

That's right.

...And so you're helping me look for Shinobu—as your way of paying me back?

Maybe he doesn't realize it.

But it's clear to anyone around him—as clear as day.

CHOMP
KRAK
SNAP
KRAK
SNAP
SNAP
BSSHT
POP
TEAR
TEAR
BSSHT
KRAK
CHOMP
CHOMP

Aberrations—are logical to the end. And so...

Ah... I see.

All you want to do is get rid of Hanekawa's stress, no matter the method.

Yep.

Koyomi Araragi can be Koyomi Araragi with confidence.

He doesn't have to realize it—

You could say I'm like a system created to eliminate my myaster's stress—you see?

Okay, then.

...but he'll always be able to tell his own tale.

He could even lose his humanity ...

At any and all times.

Tsubasa Hanekawa loves Koyomi Araragi.

That's why I love him.

Like when I suddenly decide to write his name in the corner of my notes and can't help but smile.

Amusingly enough, that's the only thing inside me that's certain.

In the end, any me I can speak about would have to begin there.

Koyomi Araragi

My myaster *wouldn't be able to last that long, in more ways than one.*

But it'd be too late then.

If I did things like nyormal— it woulda taken a year for me to *disappear...*

The amount of stress that my myaster had gathered over 17 years was more myassive than you could ever imyagine.

In that case— I'd appreciate your help.

...I under-stand.

Which is why— I need to get sucked up by that vampire runt and disappear as soon as possible...

Hanekawa knows where she is.

SMIRK

Or rather — *who* do I trust?

What... do I trust?

Then again ...

Deishu Kaiki—

That crow-like man—

his words.

I think I'm starting to get the idea, my senior Araragi.

Yep.

Con artist

KUHH

SKWAA

SKWAA

KWEH

KWEH KWEH

Seems like lying is as natural to him as breathing—it's to the point...

...where *he'll* even call himself a con artist.

Sengoku told me about that man this morning, and I had my middle school juniors do a little research on him...

Like—if a liar calls himself a con artist, it'll actually make you think he isn't one.

Yeah. Guess it's what you'd call a rhetorical trick?

He says that about himself...?

...

He'll lie to people,

but he'll never lie to money.

Apparently, he'll always give you useful information as long as you pay him money.

Then I guess that makes it a very reliable, well-known rumor—huh.

Okay. Thanks, Kanbaru.

I guess I did pay him...

If that really is true...

Well...

...

What *does* that mean?

Uhh... Yeah...

Which would mean...

That would make *everything* he said...

SMIRK

...a true *statement*.

ENZOOF

I'll bring you up with me.

KRASH

Times

POP

Your legs are too slow.

URGH ...?!

SWOOOOSH

Hm?

SLUMP

PANT しお

PANT しお

しお PANT

GAH!

AH AH AH AH

OH —

URGH —

ブル SHAKE

What's the myat-ter?

It's... It's your... abili-ties...

TWITCH ピョン

TWITCH ピョン

TWITCH ピョン

Did you forget...?

An "energy drain."

This cat aberration's power to steal every drop of vitality from anyone it touches—

I'd be in real trouble if I didn't get extra power from the mountain...

...I may be an idiot, but you're a pretty big one yourself...

MY MYASTER'S BREASTS FELT SO GOOD THAT YOU PASSED OUT?!

AH! NYOW I GET IT, HUMAN!

AHEM

...

...I've been cured of my desire to spend all night jumping rope with her.

BOING BOING たぷん たぷん

BOING BOING たぷん たぷん

...Though thanks to that...

MM HMMMM?

I-I-IF YOU'RE THAT DESPURRATE FOR IT... I'LL LET YA MYASSAGE THESE BREASTS FOR ONE PACK OF BONITO FLAKES PURR GROPE!

WHAT A BOOB BARGAIN!

Hey. Human.

What?

IF THAT REALLY WAS THE OFFERING PRICE, I'D PAY SIXTY YEARS' WORTH UPFRONT FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT!

YOU KNOW! YOU KNOW— BUT!

HANE-KAWA'S BREASTS ARE MORE, WELL...

STOP TRYING TO SELL YOUR MASTER'S CHASTITY!

ACTUALLY, ONE PORTION OF CATNIP INSTEAD... NO, ONE PORTION OF CAT FOOD!

TWING

MEE-OW!

DHOORAY!

DHOORAY!

BOING

BOING

Huh?! Sixty years? —What's that mean?!

Hmm ...

Okay, fine...

THERE'S NO POINT IN JUST CHANGING THE UNIT!

AREN'T YOU ACTUALLY GIVING ME A DISCOUNT?!

IT'S TOO LATE TO RAISE THE PRICE ON ME... OR WAIT!

PS 24H

THAT'S SO PEDESTRIAN... AND WAIT, ONLY I'D GET SOMETHING OUT OF THAT!

THEN WE'LL DECIDE ON THE PRICE BY SEEING WHO CAN STOP THIS STOPWATCH EXACTLY AT ONE SECOND! WHOEVER WINS GETS TO GROPE THE OTHER'S BREASTS!

She seems way too suspicious when I really think about this.

...I'll use this conversation as an opening to figure out what she really wants.

STOP FOCUSING ON THE NUMBER ONE! YOU'VE GOT TWO BREASTS, RIGHT?!

For now...

YOU'RE IN LUCK! CATS'VE GOT EIGHT BREASTS ON NYAVER-AGE!

I DUNNO ABOUT THAT KINK...

OH ...

Umm...

Is this what you'd call setting the mood?

Some-thing... seems off...

In any case, we need to get away from the topic of boobs...

...they get even more excited chatting about dirty nonsense with a female friend...

According to one theory,

while men get excited talking romance with a lover...

WHAT'S IT CALLED WHEN YOU GET A BUMP ON YOUR HEAD?

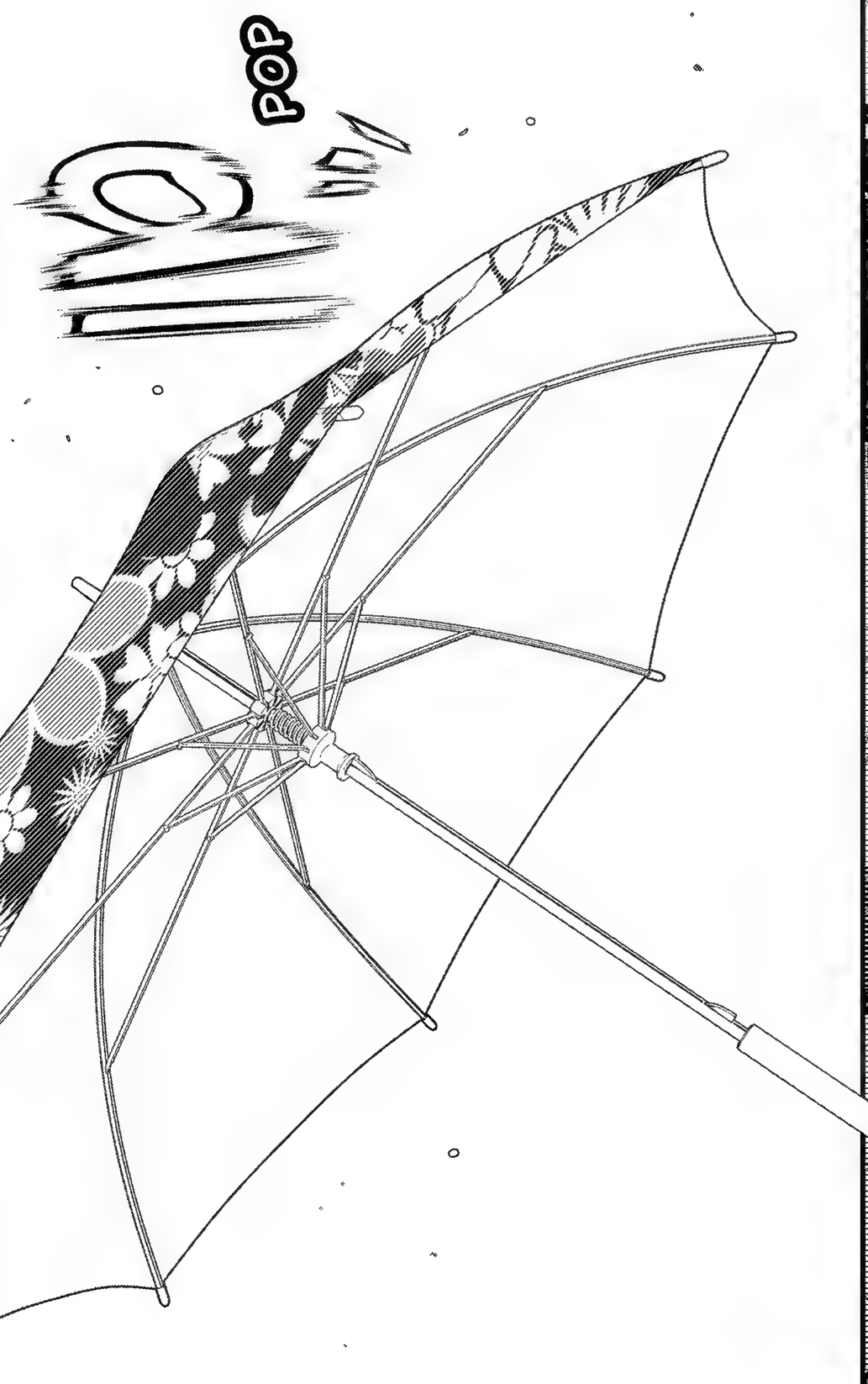
IT'S FINE.

A BOOB-BOOB!

WHATEVER. I'M HAVING A BLAST.

NO, A BOO-BOO! YOU BIG DUMMY! ♡

BAKEMONOGATARI



Damn.

Rain?

Hey, Cat. Will you be okay dressed like that?

I can't remember.

When was it—

I'm an aber-ration.

that "I" first noticed *it*?

Nyoh need to worry.

That's right. It's not that I forgot it. *I tried not to learn it.*

I cut it off from my memories—from my conscious-ness.

The worst kind of abuse.

Being *un-loved.*

Those hellish days.

Of being *unable to love.*

PLASTIC

I think that's...

...the kind of tale this is.

To face myself.

It's finally time to face it.

To face the heart I severed myself.

Aoyomi Araragi
No answer
No answer
Mute
Keypad
...

Hmm
...

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

Do you have any idea why she myaighta disappeared in the first place?

The vampire runt's scent suddenly goes cold here.

...No.

None at all.

You sure? Maybe all the aberration cases mew've been solving ever since spring break...

...gotcha thinking that you actually *know* what's going on.

I thought I nyeeded ...

...to get a little jab in to see, that's all.

Huh ...?

Wh...

Where's that coming from...? You sound like Oshino...

In that case...

Myerp.

The reason— why Shinobu disap-peared?

Hold on, Cat.

Are you saying that you know, then?

Aber-rations nyoh aberra-tions best.

Listen, human. The word "aberration" explains it all.

Well... I think I kind of nyoh why.

Be-cause— *we're the same.*

An aber-rant, an alter-ation.

Something different from all of you—

so it's all over fur us if you get used to us.

You nyeed to believe in us, fear us,

be scared of us, loathe us, revere us, be surprised by us...

...hate us, shun us, and make wishes to us.

...she con-tinyued to exist fur 500 years.

That's how...

I guess at some point,

I started seeing her as a human child.

...Now that you mention it...that's true.

with crabs, mon-keys, and snakes ?

she didn't want to be lumped in—

So you mean—

...of having to be involved with us for all this time.

Yes— that myaight be it.

But that vampire... may nyot have liked the idea...

...and because she wasn't able to maintain her own identity—

she decided to run away?

That being placed next to various other aberra-tions robbed her of what made her special ?

That she could *no longer differentiate herself from others...*

Huh...

Dense? How so?

I'm saying you've got no insight.

...

Mrow, you're so dense.

Hey, stop psycho-logically vandalizing me.

I'm saying you can't see into the window of anyone's mind because yours is too cracked to see out of.

Well, I'll agree I'm not the best at knowing what others think...

But in any case, mrow...

Araragi, I think denseness on a level like yours...

...can only come as the result of flawed construction.

KRAK

No, no.

Why would you say that all of a sudden...?

We can't turn Hanekawa back without her...

...to find that vampire?

Huh?

Do you...

...really nyeed...

...is pretty conve-nient for you, nyo?

When you think about it, that vampire just disappearing...

But—*that's* the only purroblem, right?

...and you can turn back into a human any time you want.

Don't forget it.

All you have to do is abandon Shinobu...

Don't make me mad.

And that's enough...

...to make my heart throb so hard I can barely stay standing.

This is who Koyomi Araragi is.

Yeah.

That.

Those words.

Those few words are all it takes.

There's a way to make me pull back without having to rely on this vampire.

But you nyoh, hu-man.

What do you say?

Seems like those cracks cleared right up, mrow.

That's right, Araragi.

That's "it."

...OH!

I...I GET IT!

I ALWAYS ASSUMED THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO SO LONG AS I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS CAUSING HANEKAWA'S STRESS—

BUT YOU *ARE* HER STRESS... WHICH MEANS YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS!

I only know what I know— so...

...I don't know— a thing.

And that means you need to know.

POP

?!

...just how painful "it" is—

How painful being *unloved* is.

You need to know...

...

L'' STAAARE

?

...

?!

Hey!

...

FSST

But Araragi...

...do you know? I wonder.

Yeah. You must not know.

I bet you don't know.

But that's okay.

I didn't know, either.

Are you sure you're not cold?

...

Cat?

So, this—

this is the
one thing
I need to say.

...in love with you, mrow.

I'm...

I'm so in love with you that it turns me into a monster.

You need to know that.

...in love with you, mrow.

I'm...

Ara-ragi.

Ara-ragi.

Hey.

Ara-ragi.

I'm...

...com-pletely in love with you, Araragi.

Wha ...?

I love you...

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MYLORD

MYLORD 2

ABC

...
mrow.

Can we date...

...with marriage in mind?

I wanted to say what I was think-ing...

Wrong way.

No!

...wait.

But—

I acci-den-tally added the cat sounds ...

So...

S...

Mrow.

...this outfit—

it might be more embarrassing than being nude...

FIDGET

FIDGET

W-Well... that was a good try for me...

Or actu-ally ...

...now that I'm back to my "normal" self...

...then I should be able to get out of the way, but—

...if you love my myaster back...

If you love me—I myean ...

...

...

Um ...

...

Are you trying to be funny?

I can't come up with a quip for every stupid setup, you know.

SIGH

Hey. Cat.

...but you're dating someone else. And ya've been— flaunting it.

My myaster is in love with ya...

That's what— her stress was.

It's true— that's why the "cat" came back, mrow.

N-No way! I mean—

...No!

Hanekawa...? She never... really...

If that really is true...

...then I've done...

...an awful, horrible thing to Hanekawa...

And a month ago...was Mother's Day.

The same day that I started going out with Senjogahara...!

The head-aches... that's right.

Hanekawa has been getting headaches for about a month now...

But even then... Hanekawa...

She'd still listen and give advice...

...about me and Senjoga-hara.

THROB

THROB

...she might have actually been watching us from some-where...

THROB

And that day, too.

When Senjo-gahara and I were together...

Ara-
ragi.

Go
ahead.

And
that
day,
too—

HEY! AREN'T THERE UGLIER MOMENTS YOU OUGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?!

LIKE THAT TIME! AND THAT TIME!! AND THAT TIME!!! AND THAT TIME !!!!

MROW !

GRR

BSSHT

?!!

Booble
Theramin

FLEX
FLEX
JIGGLE
JIGGLE

Like th...

That time. And that time.

And that time. And...

What's more, visibl
above that sm
ribbon was he
abdomen an
cute belly butt
Yes, her skirt had b
flipped so far up tha
those parts of her
were now immodestly
exposed. Had I wan
I could even hav
nized the tails of
tucked into her
could appear so
irt was another

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Naoetsu ➡ Haneda Airport

WHAT FRIEND WOULD DO THAT?!

I thought those were all acts of mercy shown to me by a holy mother—a blessing to her wanting incel friend.

Oh, th-that...

KRASH

Um, I don't even nyoh what the toiletman jig is...

You could cut my head off, stuff me into a toilet, and force me to dance the toiletman jig, and I'd still have no right to complain...

I'm sorry...

If anything, I'd feel better if you did do that...!

Ya never found it odd?!

I guess I did do things like take my underwear off in front of Araragi.

Maybe it was his chastity that was in greater danger than anyone else's.

Putting that aside...

W-Well...

In any case...

KOFF

That a dead-serious class president would choose a vice president like you?

That goes beyond the wrong man fur the job.

She wanted to be with ya—as much as possible.

I was happiest ...

...in those moments, Araragi.

I slowly built one bit of joy on top of the next—

But then, my love—

abruptly stopped.

No.

If anything, *that's where it started.*

It's all too late nyow.

She didn't waste a moment —

my rival suddenly appeared, struck first, and settled the battle in the blink of an eye.

And then...

...the ~~romance~~stress built up, one piece at a time.

...I should be sure about it.

One step at a time.

I should take this... slower.

Yeah.

KANBARU BANK

Hane-
kawa.

I...

...came here to hear these words...!

I...

No. Putting my hands over my ears— wouldn't be any different from what I've done up to this point.

With this...

...my love...

...can finally...

I...

This is fine.

Hm.

White.

THOOMP

...come to an en—

White

—

and how trans-par-ently so.

My ~~romance~~ battle—

it seems, hasn't ended yet.

It was so transparent.

I was clearly pretending to be pure.

"White."

BAKEMONOGATARI

Move.

...will move.

You...

That's right.

A model student.

A class president among class presidents.

Smart.

Kind to all.

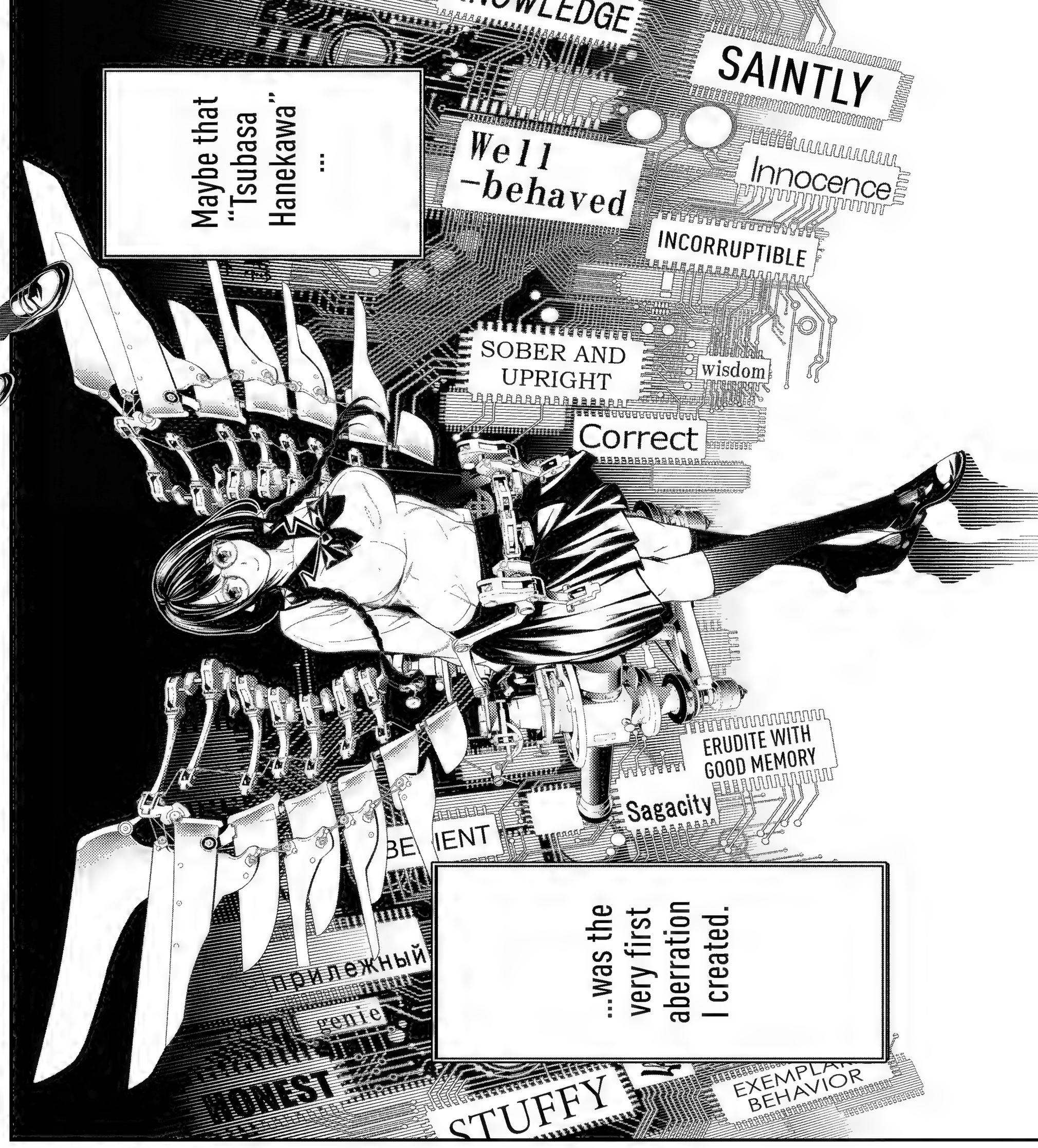
Like some kind of saint.

Fair.

Araragi once described me in such terms.

Maybe that "Tsubasa Hanekawa" ...

...Was the very first aberration I created.



It is all too late.

You— are in the way.

I will burn.

You will move.

is the third.

If the Afflicting Cat I created was the second, then now— this tiger—

What is it trying to burn?

What has made it so irritated?

This blazing tiger.

It came to me instantly—

I knew the answer.

Because that tiger is me.

Kayomi Araragi

No answer

TWITCH

TREMBLE

TH

—No.

APA HOTEL

W...ait.

...

I started dating Senjogahara a month ago—

less than three months after we first met.

Cat.

Wait—hold on. Are you sure—that's right?

...a few months of romance, then...

So—if it was only...

Cat, you were created from Hanekawa's stress—

which she built up over the course of seventeen whole years, right?

"Only"?

...that you've never actually fallen in love with someone before?

Could it be...

ZSSHT

FWOOF

Is there some reason a few months of exacerbated heartbreak shouldn't surpass a dozen or so years of family strife?

Are ya sure...

...you're not just going out with that girl because it's what she insisted on?

If so, you oughta break up right away and go out with my myaster instead.

You'd be just as happy dating anyone, wouldn't ya?

...these blatant provoca-tions...

...should— make me mad.

Maybe ...

Is it possible that staying out of love can take a conscious effort as well?

I have to wonder.

Because it's true—maybe I was making *that kind of effort* when it came to Hanekawa.

But I—have no right to get angry.

...that's not it... cat.

But...

So she understood everything...

Hachikuji—I can't believe her.

I love everything about Senjogahara —

her personality included.

I can't choose Hane-kawa.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...

...THAT I'VE REALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE.

The two of us...

...had already met.

NAOETSU HARBOR

BWOOSH

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

Hmm.

Really nyow.

Hanekawa... is my savior.

I'd do anything I could for her.

I see...

You dating my myaster woulda been the easiest way, but...

GRIN

Huh?

THERE IS?! WHAT IS IT?!

MYEH HEH HEH! ♡

to get me out without relying on that vampire runt.

There's actually — one more way.

A quick and efficient way—

WALK FOR ME A BIT!

YEP— KEEP GOING A LITTLE MORE!

NORTH GATE

Below what?

YEP, YOU'RE RIGHT BELOW IT NYOW!

SHINK

What do I do here?

So, cat?

...

BOOM

POP

Get rid of you, and that gets rid of me, too.

The cause of the stress. The stress itself.

Nyice and simple.

I'm just gonna hang onto you for now.

The power of the Afflicting Cat—

is to drain the energy of anyone she touches...

Crap ...!

Kah...

Y-

You... Cat...

Oh...

SQUEEZE

Time for you to be held by my myaster's nyaughty body until you're shriveled and dead.

Continued in Volume 19

BAKEMONOGATARI 19
Tsubasa Cat B
Black Boobies appear!
JIGGLE
The way to resolve this cat problem...
...is for the root of the stress, Koyomi, to disappear.
But there's a reason he has to make it back no matter what.
SMIRK
Willing to do anything to survive...
...he raises his voice, and then—!
SCREEEEEK
Tsubasa Cat's B-side.
Next Volume Preview
I don't want to die!
Save me!
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
Please! Somebody, somebody, somebody, somebody!
COMING AUGUST 2023!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 18

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First published in Japan in 2022 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9798889330158

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Editing: Ajani Oloye
Translation: Ko Ransom
Production: Grace Lu
Pei Ann Yeap
Hiroko Mizuno
Ripping: 1r0n

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